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ABSTRACT

The social, cultural, and historical documents and commentary in this casebook illuminate the reading of "The Catcher in the Rye," a novel that has become an important rite of passage for many young adults. In addition to a literary analysis, the casebook acquaints students with the larger world in which Holden Caulfield, the protagonist, moves: Hollywood films, Broadway plays, and jazz musicians. It also presents a detailed account of the censorship challenges to the novel, and provides primary documents on child development and psychology that illuminate Holden's contradictory behavior. Chapters in the casebook are: Introduction; Literary Analysis; Censorship of "The Catcher in the Rye"; America's Post-War Culture; Preparatory Schools; Holden Caulfield at the Movies; and Holden Caulfield on the Analyst's Couch. Each chapter concludes with topic ideas for written and oral discussion based on the materials presented in the chapter--the casebook is designed for student research and for interdisciplinary teaching of the novel. (NKA)

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